

DO NOT ENTER: /SL/

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AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1-13. (cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A method for selecting a compound which reduces an activity of [[a]] an alpha subunit of an SCN3A sodium channel comprising:

- (a) contacting a composition comprising [[a]] an alpha subunit of an SCN3A sodium ion channel protein with [[a]] at least one test compound;
- (b) assaying the activity of alpha subunit of the sodium ion channel in the presence of ~~the said~~ at least one test compound;
- (c) comparing the activity of the alpha subunit of the sodium ion channel in the absence of said at least one test compound;
- (d) selecting a compound which reduces the activity of the alpha subunit of the sodium ion channel as compared to the activity of the alpha subunit of the sodium ion channel in the absence of the at least one test compound;

wherein said alpha subunit of the SCN3A sodium ion channel protein is selected from the group consisting of

- (i) the [[an]] amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:67; and
- (ii) [[a]] an SCN3A protein encoded expressed by a full length SCN3A nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under high stringency conditions having at least 95% identity to the nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:65 and having a sodium ion channel activity, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise a hybridization at 65°C in 5 x SSC, 5 x Denhardt's solutions, 1% SDS, and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA; and

wherein said alpha subunit of the SCN3A sodium ion channel, when mutated, can lead to idiopathic generalized epilepsy.